

# The northernmost record of *Tytthosoceros inca* Baeza, Véliz, Pardo, Lohrmann and Guisado 1997 (Platyhelminthes: Pseudocerotidae) in Chile

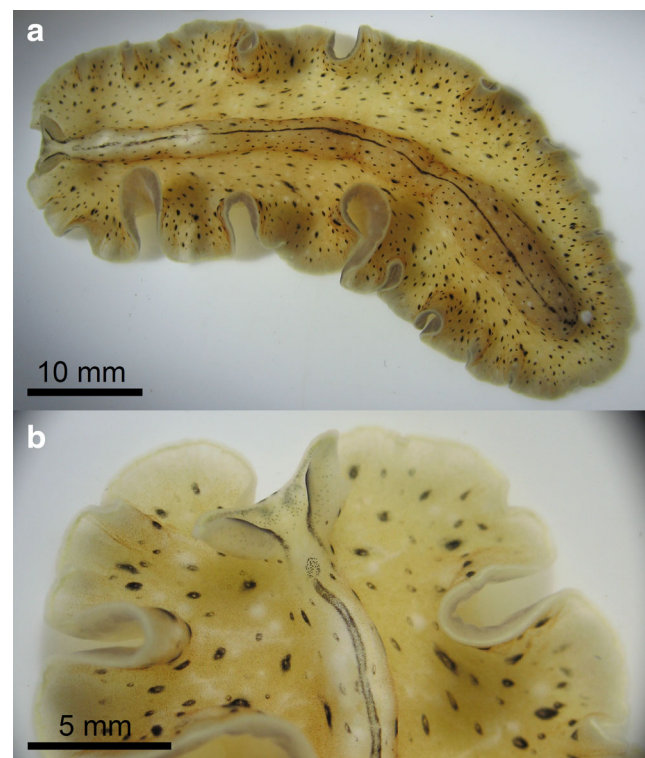
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The Pseudocerotidae is a speciose family within the Cotylea (Platyhelminthes: Rhabditophora), with about 200 species mostly present in the Indo-Pacific (Bulnes et al. 2011). Species occurring in temperate or cold regions are scarce, and this family is represented in Chile by only two taxa: *Thysanozoon skottsbergi* Bock 1923 found at Robinson Crusoe Island, Juan Fernández Archipelago and *Tytthosoceros inca* Baeza, Véliz, Pardo, Lohrmann and Guisado 1997, known from Bahía La Herradura (29°58' S; 71°22' W), Bahía Guanaqueros (30°04' S; 71°23' W), Tongoy (30°14' S; 71°28' W) (Baeza et al. 1997), and Playa Larga, in Quintay (33°11' S; 71°43' W), central Chile (Báez and Bahamondes 2000).

Four specimens of *Tytthosoceros inca* were collected from tidal pools in rocky outcrops near El Pulpito Beach (27°01' 21" S; 70°48'28" W, 1 m depth), Caldera, Región de Atacama, northern Chile, during a field sampling of polyplacophorans. A detailed description of the area of collection and the associated fauna is given in Araya and Araya (2015). These specimens were fixed with formalin, preserved in 90 % ethanol and deposited in the collections of the Museo de Zoología de la Universidad de Concepción, Concepción, Chile (MZUC 39622, J. F. Araya coll. 12/xii/2014). The species identification was made based on external morphological characteristics (form of body, colour

pattern, pseudotentacles, number and position of eyes), which agree with the original description of Baeza et al. (1997). We were able to record some intraspecific variability: our specimens present also white spots on the dorsal surface (Fig. 1b) and lack the conspicuous narrow marginal white stripe along their border (Fig. 1a). *Tytthosoceros inca* has been cited as living associated with communities of the colonial ascidians *Pyura chilensis* Molina, 1782 and *Ciona*



**Fig. 1** *Tytthosoceros inca* Baeza, Véliz, Pardo, Lohrmann and Guisado 1997, living specimen from El Pulpito Beach, Caldera, Chile. **a** Dorsal view; **b** detail of anterior portion of body

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*intestinalis* (Linnaeus, 1767) (Baeza et al. 1997; Báez and Bahamondes 2000); however our specimens were found in a location where no ascidians were present. The previous distribution of *Tytthosoceros inca* extended from 33°11' S (Báez and Bahamondes 2000) to 29°58' S (Baeza et al. 1997). Since our study area (Caldera) is located 690 km north from the previous northernmost record of *T. inca*, we believe that this species has a continuous distribution along the coasts of central and northern Chile.

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